

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-21 were pending in this application. According to the August 5, 2004 Office Action, claim 18 was withdrawn from consideration, claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 15, and 19 were rejected, and claims 3-6, 9-14, 16-17, and 20-21 were objected to. Applicant has canceled claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 15, and 18-19 and amended claims 3, 5-6, 13, and 20. Accordingly, claims 3-6, 9-14, 16-17, and 20-21 are under consideration. Applicant maintains that the amendments do not introduce any new matter.

Applicant has amended the specification at paragraphs 4-5, 22, 25, 28-29, and 31 to correct several typographical errors. For consistency with the specification, applicant has amended Figure 1 to label the "N+ substrate" as element 10. Applicant is submitting with this Response a new sheet of formal drawings reflecting this change and respectfully requests that the replacement Figure be entered.

Restriction of Invention under 35 U.S.C. §121

The Examiner indicated that claim 18 and claims 1-17 and 19-21 are each distinct inventions and that the application be restricted to one of these inventions as required under 35 U.S.C. 121. Consistent with the conversation the Examiner had with applicant's counsel on August 2, 2004, applicant has canceled prior claim 18 and has elected, without traverse, claims 1-17 and 19-21 as the invention.

Objection to Claims 2, 5, 6, and 19-21

The Examiner objected to claims 2, 5, and 6 for reciting "contact types" rather than "conductivity types" and objected to claims 19-21 for reciting "high resistivity surface" rather than "low resistivity surface". Applicant has amended claims 5 and 6 in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation. As indicated, applicant has canceled claims 2 and 19.

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 15, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner rejected previously presented claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 15, and 19 as unpatentable, 35 U.S.C. 102(b), in view of Baliga et al., patent 5,679,966, October 21, 1997 (hereinafter Baliga). In response thereto, applicant has canceled these claims.

Allowable Claims 3-6, 9-14, 16-17, and 20- 21

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that dependent claims 3-6, 9-14, 16-17, and 20-21 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claims. In response thereto, applicant has amended dependent claims 3 and 13 to be independent claims, each including the limitations of previously presented claim 1. In addition, applicant has amended dependent claim 20 to be an independent claim that includes the limitations of previously presented claim 19. In addition, applicant has amended claim 20 to recite "low resistivity surface" rather than "high resistivity surface" based on the Examiner's objection to previously presented claim 19.

As for claims 5-6, 9-12, 14, 16-17, and 21, these claims continue to depend from claims 3, 13, or 20.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3-6, 9-14, 16-17, and 20- 21 are now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits notice to that effect.

Applicant earnestly believes that this application is now in condition to be passed to issue, and such action is also respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner deems it would in any way facilitate the prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone applicant's counsel at the number given below.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 4, 2004:

Samuel H. Weiner

Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

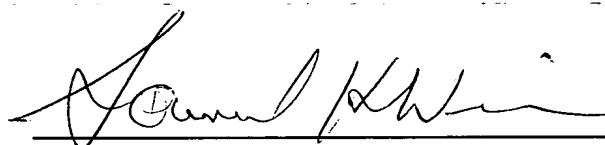


Signature

Nov 4, 2004

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 has been amended. The attached sheet of formal drawings replaces the original sheet including Figures 1 and 2.